

DARLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR 1946

BY

M.W. RODGERS, M.B., CH.B., B.A.O., D.P.H.

CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF DARLINGTON.

Gentlemen:

In the absence of Dr. C.A. O'Neil, F.B. CH.B B.A.O. it is my duty and privilege to present to you the annual report upon the health and sanitary circumstances of the Darlington Rural District Council for the year ending the 31st December, 1946.

So far as the health of the population as a whole is concerned, and so far as it can be measured by the incidence of infectious and other diseases, the year 1946 may be described as being rather better than the average. The usual vital and mortal statistics do not vary much from the normal.

During the early part of the year six cases ~~cases~~ of contact with Smallpox arrived in the district (service-men returning from abroad). In each case an examination and enquiries were made but no case of Smallpox resulted.

The progress on schemes of housing, water supply, sewerage and sewage disposal appears very slow and it is hoped that the improvement will be more marked next year, although considerable difficulties brought about by shortage of labour and materials still lie ahead.

My grateful thanks are due to your Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector who together with his staff have diligently dealt with the work of the department, and I also would like to acknowledge the courtesy afforded by the Chairman and Members of the Council.

I am,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

M. B. Rodgers

M.B., CH.B., B.A.O.,
D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

53 Coniscliffe Road,
DARLINGTON.
28th November, 1947.

SECTION A

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of Rural District in Acres.....	45,064
Resident Population.....	9,382
Number of Inhabited Houses.....	2,548
Sum represented by a penny rate.....	£314.11.2.
Rateable value at 1st April, 1945.....	£75494

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND EMPLOYMENT.

The chief industries are Agriculture, Lime Burning, and General Quarrying. Many of the population are engaged in works in the Borough of Darlington, the Urban District of Sildon and The Rural District of Stockton.

The conversion of the Royal Ordnance Factory at Aycliffe into a Trading Estate has made good progress to date. There are 42 industrial undertakings operating as tenants on the Estate and employing approximately 2,600 people. Some of these undertakings have come from other parts of the country necessitating the importing of key men into the area. In view of this and the need for housing in connection with the Trading Estate the Minister of Town & Country Planning has considered the necessity of a new town at Aycliffe. Sites have been suggested one south of the existing village and the other to the north.

Messrs. Crossley & Sons, Brick Factory at Hurworth is now in the course of erection and it is hoped that by the autumn of 1947 it will be in production.

Messrs. W. H. Arnott Young Limited commenced in February with the demolition and site clearance of the Linthorpe and Dinsdale Smelting Company Limited works at Middleton-St-Georges. These comprised three large furnaces, engine shops and approximately six miles of railway sidings. Approximately 20-30 men have had employment during the year and 6,000 tons of iron and steel and 1,000,000 bricks have been salvaged which will help to meet the present shortage of these materials. The Linthorpe & Dinsdale Smelting Co. Ltd., has not operated since 1931 and I understand that the derelict works have been cleared to provide sites for light industrial undertakings.

Unemployment in the area during 1946 was negligible and those out of work were suffering from physical handicap or were past middle age. Aycliffe Trading Estate is still absorbing a large amount of labour and will continue to do so during 1947.

STATISTICS

BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATE

The number of Live Births in the District was 152 as against 155 in the previous year.

The sex legitimacy classification is drawn thus:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	82	63	145
Illegitimate	2	5	7

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 16.20 as compared with a rate of 17.39 last year. The rate for England and Wales is 19.1.

STILL BIRTHS

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	7	9
Illegitimate	2	-	2

The rate per 1,000 of the population is 1.17 as compared with 0.22 last year, and a rate of 0.53 for England and Wales.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There was 1 death from Maternal Causes during the year out of a total of 163 registered births (152 live and 11 still).

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Deaths of infants under one year of age were as follows:-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	5	4	9
Illegitimate	-	-	-

The infantile mortality rate is 46.


The rate for England and Wales is 43.

DEATHS AND DEATH RATE

During 1946 there were 114 deaths registered, 58 male and 56 female. The Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population is 12.15 which compares very favourably with a death rate of 13.69 for 1945 and a rate of 11.5 for England and Wales.

TABLE SHOWING CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System.....	1	-
Other Forms of Tuberculosis.....	1	-
Influenza.....	1	-
Cancer (all forms).....	9	10
Diabetes.....	-	1
Intracranial Vascular lesions.....	6	11
Heart Disease.....	15	19
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System.	3	1
Bronchitis.....	2	1
Pneumonia.....	2	2
Other Respiratory Diseases.....	2	-
Nephritis.....	1	2
Internal Causes.....	-	1
Premature Birth.....	-	1
Congenital Malformation, Infantile Diseases	2	2
Road Traffic Accidents.....	2	-
Other Violent Causes.....	3	1
All other Causes.....	7	3
Whooping Cough.....	-	1
Encephalitis.....	1	-
Total.....	<u>58</u>	<u>56</u>



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INFECTIOUS DISEASES

CIVILIAN CASES NOTIFIED

AGE	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Diphtheria		Measles		Acute Pneumonia		Puerperal Pyrexia		Ac. Ant. Polio-myelitis		Ophthalmia Neonatorum	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
1-3	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3-5	-	-	1	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-10	4	8	1	1	3	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
10-15	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	1	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 and over	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	8	12	5	2	6	4	1	3	3	4	-	1	-	1	2	-

Death Rate from Seven Principal Infectious diseases 0.11

Civilian Cases Removed to Isolation Hospital

Scarlet Fever 10 Puerperal Pyrexia 1 Diphtheria 9
Measles (with complications) 1

Where necessary all premises were inspected and particulars taken. The premises and bedding were disinfected.

Number of the above cases of Diphtheria who had been immunised and those not immunised.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Immunised</u>	<u>Not Immunised</u>
0 - 5	-	1
5 - 15	2	1
over 15	3	2

The number of children immunised against Diphtheria during the year was 47, of this total 5 were of the 0 - 5 groups and 42 of the 5 - 15 group. The percentage of immunised children in the area is 81 per cent, in the 5 - 15 group, and 51 per cent in the 0 - 5 group.

SMALLPOX

There were no cases of smallpox in this area although there were 6 contacts arrived in the District. Each case was the subject of a medical examination and full inquiries were made.

TUBERCULOSIS

There were 4 cases of Pulmonary and 1 case of Non-Pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year.

	<u>Pulmonary</u>	<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>
Male	1	1
Female	3	-

One death was registered from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and one death from non-pulmonary tuberculosis

1 M. Adult and 1 in the 1 - 5 age group.

1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem.

2. The second part is devoted to a detailed study of the case of a single particle.

3. The third part is devoted to a study of the case of a system of particles.

4. The fourth part is devoted to a study of the case of a system of particles.

5. The fifth part is devoted to a study of the case of a system of particles.

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16. The sixteenth part is devoted to a study of the case of a system of particles.

17. The seventeenth part is devoted to a study of the case of a system of particles.

18. The eighteenth part is devoted to a study of the case of a system of particles.

19. The nineteenth part is devoted to a study of the case of a system of particles.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES (Continued)

Two cases only in receipt of Maintenance Allowances under the Ministry of Health Scheme.

The Service is administered by the Durham County Council.

VENEREAL DISEASES

This Service is also administered by the County Council.

SECTION B. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:-

G. A. O'Neill, M.B., CH.B., D.A.O.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:-

J. D. Collins, F.R.S.I., A.R. San. I., F.S.I.A.

Certified Sanitary Inspector, Heat and Food Inspector.

Engineering Assistant:-

S. Shore. April, 1946.

Additional Sanitary Inspector - Returned from H.M. Forces

June, 10th. R.E. Dunn, F.S.I.A. A.R. San. I.,

Certified Sanitary Inspector, Heat and Food Inspector.

Pupil Assistant:-

J. Clough. 1946.

Chief Clerk and General Assistant:-

F. H. Hurworth.

General Clerk:-

Miss V. L. Wilkinson. (Temporary).

Shorthand-Typist:-

D. Kershaw.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES, WATER SUPPLY, SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

WATER.

for

1. No samples of water ~~xxx~~ chemical and bacteriological examination have been taken by the Council from the Tees Valley Water Board, Darlington Corporation or the Durham County Water Board. No complaint has been received regarding the quality of the water, as regular sampling for the purposes of analysis is carried out by these public bodies.
2. The water supply to the major part of the Rural District is by public mains (within the statutory areas of the Tees Valley Water Board, The Darlington Corporation, and the Durham County Water Board) and has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity. However, there are parts of the area which have an unsatisfactory supply both in quality and quantity, as follows:- Houghton-le-Side, Houghton Bank, Great Stainton, Walworth Castle, and Lanchester Gate, also several isolated farms.
3. No waters within the area of the Rural District are known to have Plumbic-Solvent action. The degrees of hardness are given as follows: Durham County Water Board 2.5; Darlington Corporation 8; and the Tees Valley Water Board 4.8.
4. The proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of the population supplied from public water mains being as follows:-
was
(a) Direct to the houses 90.8 of the houses and 79.8 of population.
(b) By means of Stand-pipe 7.6 of the houses and 6.8 of population.

IMPROVEMENTS.

(a) Redworth

As a direct result of the unsatisfactory sample of water taken from the public well at Redworth and following the installation of a standpipe from the Durham County Water Board's mains last year, the owners of the 21 houses concerned after service of Statutory Notice laid on a piped water supply within each house.

(b) Bischopton

Further to the sampling of the public well and resultant unsatisfactory analysis found last year, Statutory Notices were served on the owners of 21 houses where the occupiers took this water supply from the well. Resulting from the action a piped water supply has been laid within 16 houses from the Tees Valley Water Board's mains. It was agreed in one case not to require the notice to be complied with on receipt of a letter from the owner promising that the premises concerned shall cease to be used for housing purposes immediately the tenant finds alternative accommodation. With regard to the other 4 houses it is hoped they will be dealt with next year.

PROPOSED SCHEMES WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE ACT, 1941.

(a) Houghton Bank and Houghton-le-Side.

In connection with the proposal mentioned in last year's report to afford a supply of water to Houghton Bank and Houghton-le-Side particulars and estimates of the scheme have been considered by both the County Council and the Ministry of Health and approved. It is hoped that the main will be ready next year. This scheme is being carried out in conjunction with the scheme of Barnard Castle R.D.C. providing for the laying of a 6" main through the above area to Bolam at a cost of £5,700. Half of this cost to be borne by each Council.

(b) Great Stainton.

It was decided after very careful consideration to submit a scheme to the County Council and the Ministry of Health for approval for a supply of water from the Durham County Water Board's proposed main at Stainton Hill House to Great Stainton. This scheme which is estimated to cost £1,424 for the laying of 2200 yards of 3" main is to be carried out in conjunction with one proposed by the Sedgfield R.D.C.

(c) Walworth and Walworth Gate.

A scheme estimated to cost £3,200 and providing for the laying of 3,800 yards of 4" and 400 yards of 3" water mains from Heighington via Cross Lane and Walworth Gate to Walworth was approved by the Council and submitted to the County Council for approval.

(d) Neasham Low, and Over Dinsdale.

The Tees Valley Water Board were advised of the inadequacy of the existing supply at Neasham (pressure and volume) and in connection with its improvement were informed of the possibility of the Council requiring an extension to afford a supply to Over Dinsdale and Low Dinsdale. We are now waiting for an estimate and report from the Tees Valley Water Board.

SEWERAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Improvements.

The survey having been made of the whole of the Rural District in connection with sewerage and sewage disposal preliminary estimates for improvements, extensions, and new works amounting to £67,657 were submitted to and approved by the Council and the County Council.

The Parishes concerned being Archdeacon Newton, Aycliffe, Bishopton, Blackwell, Drafferton, Coatham Lunelville Transport Safe Area, Great Burdon, Great Stainton, High Coniscliffe, Furworth, Low Coniscliffe, Ferrybent Estate, Middleton-St-George, Neasham, Piercebridge, Sadberge, Summerhouse and Whessoe.

Four small private drainage schemes were carried out during the year to isolated properties.

Rivers and Streams (River Pollution Prevention Act).

River Skerne

The County Council Report's indicate that some pollution was observed in the third quarter but after preventative measures had been taken the last quarterly report indicates that the river is free from serious pollution.

River Tees.

The condition of the river shows evidence of pollution by deposits of Whinstone Dust before it enters this district.

No complaint has been received from the County Council regarding any pollution in this District.

Bishopton Beck.

Some pollution of this beck was reported in the County Council's second Quarterly Return but later returns show that the condition of the beck has improved.

General

During the year all of the Council's sewage disposal works received attention from time to time, so that as far as possible every effort was made to prevent a pollution of the river and water courses concerned.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

During the year 11 ash closets and 16 privy middens were converted into water closets under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936. The owners of the property concerned receive a grant of half of the cost, the maximum grant being £12-10-0 for each conversion.

During the year, the Council paid £218-15-0 on grants as against £40 the previous year.

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SALVAGE (Continued)

Last Year's total amounted to \$281-6-4 compared with \$312-4-4a for 1945.

One of the Council's vehicles is utilised by Croft Rural District Council for the collection of refuse and salvage in the Parish of Croft, for a period of three days in each six weeks.

SANITARY INSPECTION

Summary of Inspections and Re-Inspections under the Public Health Acts.	No. of visits.	No. of informal notices served.	No. of informal notices remedied.
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Water Supplies	25	10	7
Defective Yard Paving	1	1	1
Housing Inspections	62	30	15
Ash Pits and Privies	13	15	10
Water Closets	16	10	7
Dairies	32	25	21
Cow Sheds	33	25	13
Drainage	34	20	15
Dangerous Buildings	3	3	2
	<u>219</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>91</u>

No. of General Inspections and Visits.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	55
Factories	4
Water Supplies	25
New Foundations	15
Buildings in Course of Construction	14
Drains Tested and Inspected	62
Properties Inspected on Completion	12
Council Houses	29
Miscellaneous	<u>122</u>
	<u>338</u>

DISINFESTATION

No verminous premises were notified, nor were any premises found to be in such a state during routine housing inspections.

SCHOOLS

No improvement in the condition of the County Council school at Blackwell has been made, although that authority was advised of the unsatisfactory condition prevailing last year.

SECTION D.

HOUSING

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

New Dwellings by Private Enterprise

Building Licences for the erection of 7 houses were approved, and these were all under construction by the end of year.

Council Houses.

The erection of 15 houses at Strait Lane, Hurworth reported last year are nearing completion, and a further contract for the erection of 20 houses on this Estate was commenced in September.

The erection of 8 houses at Bishopton was commenced on the 9th September.

Plans are being prepared for further houses in other parts of the District and it is hoped they will be commenced next year.

The following is a list of applications received for Council Houses to date:-

<u>PARISH</u>	<u>No.</u>
Aycliffe	70
Bishopton	16
Heighington	31
Hurworth	97
Killerby	3
Middleton-St-George	63
Sadberge	42
Redworth	1
	<u>323</u>

CIVIL BUILDING LICENCES.

The Council as Licensing Authority were authorised to issue licences for all Building Works costing over £10 and under £100 and costing over £100, in the case of conversions or adaptations of buildings to give additional housing accommodation. During the year 235 licences were issued in connection with housing amounting to £14,838.10s.0d. and 92 licences were issued in connection with work other than housing amounting to £4,962.15s.0d. making a total of £19,801.5s.0d. as compared with £3,211.10s.10d. for last year.

PLANS AND TOWN PLANNING.

A Planning Scheme for the greater part of the District is in course of preparation by the South Durham Joint Planning Committee; the Council making all interim decisions after consultation with the Executive Officer of the aforementioned Committee. A portion of the District immediately adjacent to Darlington is covered by the Darlington Corporation Planning Scheme, and is directly dealt with by them.

The following list gives the formal applications dealt with during the year

	<u>Approved.</u>	<u>Disapproved.</u>
1. New Houses, Bungalows and Shops	13	3
2. Garages, Sheds and Outbuildings	15	1
3. Alterations, Additions, Conversions (Houses).	15	-
4. Agricultural Buildings etc.	10	1
5. Factories	29	-

SECRET
The following information was obtained from the files of the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, on the subject of the proposed acquisition of the land described in the accompanying map.

On the 10th day of May, 1900, the Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior, received from the United States Geological Survey, a report of the results of a reconnaissance made by the latter body, in the month of April, 1900, of the land described in the accompanying map. The report of the Survey is herewith submitted for the information of the Bureau.

The land described in the accompanying map is situated in the State of California, and is known as the "Land of the Indians." It is situated in the County of San Diego, and is bounded on the north by the State of Arizona, on the east by the State of New Mexico, on the south by the State of Mexico, and on the west by the State of California. The land is situated in the County of San Diego, and is bounded on the north by the State of Arizona, on the east by the State of New Mexico, on the south by the State of Mexico, and on the west by the State of California.

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PLANS UNDER THE BYELAWS.

The following is a list of plans submitted under the Byelaws during the year.

1. New Houses and Bungalows and Shops	19
2. Garages, Sheds Etc.	22
3. Alterations, Additions and Conversions	32
4. Agricultural Buildings (Houses)	17
5. Drainage	12
6. Factories	27
7. Roads and sewers	1

2. HOUSING STATISTICS

In accordance with the instruction received from the Medical Officer of Health a Housing Survey was commenced.

The record of work done under the Housing Act, Etc. during the past year is as follows:-

1. (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts).	350
(b) Number of visits made for the purpose.	385
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1935, and Amendment Regulations, 1932.	288
(b) Number of visits made for the purpose.	300
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	151
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	124
5. Number of dwelling houses found to be overcrowded	14

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in all respects in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their Officers.

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Section B

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

Owing to the shortage of staff and general pressure of work in the department, we have been unable to carry out the usual routine inspection of cow sheds and dairies in the district.

However, every application for new registration is dealt with by a special visit, and every effort is made to keep a high standard for the production of milk.

The total number of Registered premises is 251. This

MILK SUPPLY (Continued)

includes 60 producers of Accredited Milk and 2 producers of Tuberculin Tested Milk, One Supplementary licence to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk and two Supplementary Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk were issued.

The total number of cow sheds and dairies inspected during the year were 33; of these 6 were for registration under the Milk (Special Designation) Order.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

No licences were issued in respect of slaughter houses during the year as none of the slaughter houses are in use under the Government scheme for centralising slaughter houses. The Central Slaughter House for Darlington area is in Park Road, Darlington, and no complaints have been received from local butchers in connection with this scheme.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

1 New and 12 Renewal of Licences to Slaughter Animals were granted during the year.

The following foodstuffs were examined and found to be unfit for food and were voluntarily surrendered:

6 cans turnip
8 cans beans
3 lbs Canned Meat Roll
10 lbs pickles
6 lbs Canned Pork

SECTION F MISCELLANEOUS

RATS AND PICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT, 1919.

"Infestation Order, 1943".

Since the survey of the district in 1944 baiting, trapping and gassing of rats at various Council Sewerage works have been carried out.

All complaints from private premises have been inspected and the necessary instructions given.

It is hoped to commence with a systematic treatment for rats in sewers next year.

Demolition of and collection of A.R. Shelters.

All Morrison indoor A. R. Shelters have been collected as instructed by the Ministry of Home Security.

A commencement has been made by the contractor in the demolition of Brick A. R. Shelters.

Petroleum (Regulations) Act, 1928 and 1936.

Four new and 17 Renewal of applications for licences to keep Petroleum Spirit were received during the year, and all licences were issued accordingly.

